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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of

claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A disk medium managing method for

managing data to be recorded on a disk medium by file format and

representing a hierarchical structure by directories, comprising:

pre-defining wherein an area on the disk medium is ensured as a

directory, and

-to-limit-recording location of-files and directories within the area

defined <u>as under</u> the directory.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A disk medium managing method as

defined in claim 1, wherein it is capable of further comprising

hierarchically <u>pre-defining</u> defining a further directory for ensuring in an

area within the area ensured pre-defined on the disk medium as the

directory.

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Claim 3 (currently amended) A disk managing method as defined

in claim 1, wherein it is capable of further comprising selectively

deciding whether the area is ensured_pre-defined on the disk medium or

not.

Claim 4 (currently amended) A disk medium managing method as

defined in claim 1, wherein hierarchical definition of the directory for

ensuring pre-defining the area on the disk medium is restricted by that

the directory must be defined under a directory having ensured an a

pre-defined area on the disk medium.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A disk medium managing method as

defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the area ensured_pre-

<u>defined</u> on the disk medium is continuously arranged thereon.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A disk medium managing method as

defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein it is capable of further

comprising calculating a maximal time of seeking data in the areas

ensured pre-defined on the disk medium.

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Claim 7 (currently amended): A disk medium managing method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein it is capable of further comprising specifying a maximal allowable time of seeking data in an area to be ensured pre-defined on the disk medium and calculating an area on the disk medium satisfying the specified allowable seek time.